



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,784	07/24/2001	Masaharu Yoshiyama	1503.65719	3902
7590	07/14/2005		EXAMINER	
Patrick G. Burns, Esq. GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD. Suite 2500 300 South Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606			PHAM, KHANH B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/911,784

Applicant(s)

YOSHIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

Art Unit

2167

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply****A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. The amendment filed May 9, 2005 has been entered. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 10-16 have been amended. Claims 1-16 are pending in this Office Action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1, 4, 10, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)** as being anticipated by Chaudhuri et al. (US 6,223,171 B1), hereinafter “Chaudhuri ‘171”.

**As per claims 1, 10,13, and 16,** Chaudhuri ‘171 teaches a method, a computer readable medium, and apparatus (Col. 2, lines 63-67) for “retrieving data from a database according to retrieval condition set forth in an issued SQL sentence” (Col. 6 lines 22-30) comprising:

- “making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated dynamically and a

cost required when retrieval is performed without generating an index dynamically" at Col. 23 lines 39-67 and Fig. 15;

(Chaudhuri '171 teaches the step of comparing costs of the workload (i.e., "retrieval condition") between the configurations with and without an index on column B and a two-column index (B,A) )

- "dynamically generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition if the cost required when the retrieval is performed without generating an index dynamically is higher as a result of the cost comparison" at Col. 23 line 64 to Col. 24 line 6;

(Chaudhuri '171 teaches the step of building the two-column index (B,A) as a result of the cost comparison.)

- "and retrieving the data from the database by using the dynamically generated index" at Col. 1 lines 20-35.

(Chaudhuri '171 teaches the indexes are used to enhance performance in processing queries.)

**As per claim 4,** Chaudhuri '171 teaches the method according to claim 1 as discussed above. Chaudhuri '171 also teaches: "managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time, and an update frequency of the dynamically

generated index" at Figs. 8-13; and "deleting the dynamically generated index according to management status of the data" at Col. 16 lines 35-45.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. **Claims 3, 8, 12 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over "**Chaudhuri '171**" as applied to claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 16 above, and in view of Chaudhuri et al. (US 6,169,983 B1), hereinafter "**Chaudhuri '983**".

**As per claims 3, 12, and 15** Chaudhuri '171 teaches a method, a computer readable medium and apparatus for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence (Col. 6 lines 22-30), comprising:

- “making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated dynamically and a cost required when retrieval is performed without generating an index dynamically” at Col. 23 lines 39-67 and Fig. 15;
- “if the cost required when the retrieval is performed without generating an index dynamically is higher as a result of the cost comparison, dynamically generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition” at Col. 23 line 64 to Col. 24 line 6;
- “retrieving the data from the database by using the dynamically generated index” at Col. 1 lines 20-35.

The difference between Chaudhuri '171 and the invention of claims 3, 12, 15 is that Chaudhuri '171 teaches the step of generating a new index but does not teach that the new index is generated by combining two or more indexes as claimed. However, Chaudhuri '983 teaches a similar method for index selection, including the step of: “determining whether or not two or more indexes which satisfy the retrieval condition by being combined exist among a plurality of already generated indexes by combining the two or more indexes” at Col. 14 lines 15-52, and “generating an index corresponding to the retrieval condition by combining the two or more indexes, if the two or more indexes

exist" at Col. 14 lines 53-55. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983's teachings in order to reduce the time required to generate a new index and reduce space requires to store the new index. Generating a new index by combining two or more existing indexes as taught by Chaudhuri '983 would "help minimize the amount of storage space consumed by the indexes while minimizing any increase in cost of executing queries of the workload against the database using the indexes", as noted by Chaudhuri '983 at Col. 1, lines 45-50.

**As per claim 8,** Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983 teach the method according to claim 3 discussed above. Chaudhuri '171 also teaches the steps of: "managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time, and an update frequency of the dynamically generated index" at Figs. 8-13; and "deleting the dynamically generated index according to management status of the data" at Col. 16 lines 35-45.

7. **Claims 2, 5-7, 11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Chaudhuri '171, and in view of Smith et al. (US 5,404,510 A), hereinafter "**Smith**".

**As per claims 2, 11, 14,** Chaudhuri '171 teaches a method, a computer readable medium and apparatus for retrieving data from a database according to retrieval conditions set forth in an issued SQL sentence (Col. 6 lines 22-30), comprising:

- “making a comparison between a cost required when retrieval is performed after an index corresponding to a retrieval condition is generated and a cost required when retrieval is performed without an index” at Col. 23 lines 39-67 and Fig. 15;
- “if the cost required when the entire retrieval is performed is higher as a result of the cost comparison, dynamically generating a second index which satisfies only the retrieval condition” at Col. 23 line 64 to Col. 24 line 6;
- “and retrieving a database by using the dynamically generated second index” at Col. 1 lines 20-35.

The difference between Chaudhuri '171 and the invention of claims 2, 11, 14 is that Chaudhuri '171 does not teach that the new index is generated by using the first index, if the first index which satisfies the wider condition exists. However, Smith teaches a similar method for index selection, including the steps of: “determining whether or not a first index which satisfies a condition wider than the retrieval condition exists among already generated indexes” and “generating a second index which satisfied only the retrieval condition by using the first index, if the first index which satisfies the wider condition exists” at Col. 12 lines 32-65. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Chaudhuri '171 and Smith's teachings in order to reduce the time requires to generate a new index. Generating a new index from an existing wider index requires less time because it deals with only a subset of the data in the existing index, instead of the entire set of data in the database. Combining Smith's teaching with Chaudhuri

'171's method would therefore significantly reduce the time required to generate a new index.

**As per claim 5,** Chaudhuri '171 teaches the database retrieving method according to claim 1 as discussed above. Smith teaches:

- "determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a data update or deletion" at Col. 6 lines 22-33;
- "determining whether or not access performance of the access process is degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists" at Col. 1 lines 22-33;
- "and deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded" at Col. 6 lines 42-43.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Chaudhuri '171 and Smith's teachings to improve performance of the system. Adding the steps as taught by Smith to Chaudhuri '171 system would allow the system to identify and remove high cost indexes which are expensive to maintain, therefore improve the performance of the system.

**As per claim 6,** Chaudhuri '171 and Smith teach the method according to claim 2 discussed above. Chaudhuri also teaches: "managing data of the number of accesses, a generation date and time, and an update frequency of the dynamically

generated index" at Figs. 8-13; and "deleting the dynamically generated index according to management status of the data" at Col. 16 lines 35-45.

**As per claim 7**, Chaudhuri '171 and Smith teach the database retrieving method according to claim 2 as discussed above. Smith further teaches:

- "determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a date update or deletion" at Col. 6 lines 22-33;
- "determining whether or not access performance of the access process is degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists" at Col. 6 lines 22-33;
- "and deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded" at Col. 6 lines 42-43.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Chaudhuri '171 and Smith's teachings to improve performance of the system. Adding the steps as taught by Smith to Chaudhuri '171 system would allow the system to identify and remove high cost indexes which are expensive to maintain, therefore improve the performance of the system.

8. **Claims 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983 as applied to claims 3, 8, 13, and 15 above, and further in view of **Smith**.

**As per claim 9,** Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983 teach the database retrieving method according to claim 3 as discussed above. Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983 do not explicitly teach the steps of: "determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a data update or deletion; determining whether or not access performance of the access process is degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists; and deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded". However, Smith teaches a similar method including the step of:

- "determining whether or not an already generated index that is applicable to an access process exists, if an access to the database is a date update or deletion" at Col. 6 lines 22-33;
- "determining whether or not access performance of the access process is degraded due to existence of the index, if the index exists" at Col. 6 lines 22-33;
- "and deleting the index prior to start of the access process, if the access performance is degraded" at Col. 6 lines 42-43.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Chaudhuri '171 and Chaudhuri '983's teachings with Smith's teaching so that "unimportant and volatile indexes may be pruned from the system" (Smith, Col. 6 lines 40-45), and therefore improve the performance of the database by reducing the cost of maintenance these indexes.

***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicant's arguments filed May 9, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner respectfully traverses applicant's arguments.

Applicant argued that Chaudhuri '171 fails to disclose dynamic generation of an index because "Chaudhuri '171 is directed to a static index and not a dynamic index"; the examiner respectfully disagrees. Chaudhuri teaches dynamic generation of an index as claimed because Chaudhuri generates new indexes based on the cost and retrieval conditions, different retrieval conditions will required different indexes to be generated. Chaudhuri '171 is therefore not directed to static index, but instead directed to dynamic index, because new indexes are added if the cost is higher than retrieval being performed without generating an index dynamically.

Applicant argued that Chaudhuri '171 fails to disclose dynamic generation of an index because Chaudhuri teaches that: "a database administrator decides to build a two-column index and schedule the index to be built at midnight". On the contrary, the examiner respectfully submits that even if Chaudhuri deferred the generation of indexes, the indexes are still generated automatically and dynamically, based on the result of the cost comparison and retrieval condition. Chaudhuri's teaching of scheduling the index to be built at midnight only provides an added improvement to the system such that the index are built at the time the workload on the system are lowest, therefore improving the system performance, especially for the indexes which take large amount of time to build.

In light of the foregoing arguments, the 35 U.S.C 102 and 103 rejections are hereby sustained.

***Conclusion***

**10. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2167

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Khanh B. Pham  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2167

June 29, 2005

KBP



MOHAMMAD ALI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER